

March 9, 2006

Dear Administrator,

I am writing your office today because I will not be able to attend the public hearing set for the Kansas City area but I wanted to express my concern. I am president of Bank of Minden, Mindenmines, Missouri, a very small town just off the western Missouri border with Kansas. I have been president of our small family owned bank for more than twenty years. During that time we have served our customers well and just this year we started building a new banking facility to replace our very old one. Even though we are in a rural area, the competition for bank deposits and loans has always been very keen. I think our customers would tell you that we served them well and with so much competition, our customers are getting that service at reasonable prices. I can tell you that if Wal-Mart is allowed into the banking business, they will use their large size and wealth to drive many of the small independent community banks such as ours, out of business. This would not be good for the smaller banks nor for our nation. Small community banks are not a significant threat to the Federal Deposit Insurance system, but I can tell you that a Wal-Mart bank failure could bring down our entire financial system. There is plenty of competition now, there is no need for Wal-Mart to enter our system.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern.

Sincerely,  
Barry Draper, President  
Bank of Minden  
609 Main  
Mindenmines, Missouri 64769